

DATE

M. Ron Spooner
Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans
625 St. Joseph Street, Room 201
New Orleans, Louisiana 70165

Re: **Louisiana Board of Ethics**
Docket No. 2021-666

Dear Mr. Spooner,

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its meeting on September 3, 2021, considered your request for approval of an updated disqualification plan concerning the employment of Eric Mancuso Jr. and his father, Eric Mancuso Sr., with the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans ("SWBNO").

PRIOR ADVISORY OPINIONS

In Docket No. 2017-700, the Board found no violation of the Code of Governmental Ethics ("Code") concerning Eric Mancuso, Jr.'s continued employment by the SWBNO as a Utility Maintenance Master Specialist 1 in the Facility Maintenance Department, following his father, Eric Mancuso, Sr.'s promotion to interim Utility Senior Service Administrator, based on the fact that Eric Mancuso Jr. had been employed more than one year prior to his father becoming his agency head. A disqualification plan was approved by the Board which provided that all authority over Eric Mancuso Jr.'s employment was to be handled by his direct supervisor, Harry Quebedeaux. In the event Mr. Quebedeaux was unavailable, Rick Ranko and Bobby Brouillette agreed to handle any potential issues concerning Eric Mancuso Jr.'s employment.

In Docket No. 2020-595, an updated disqualification plan was approved by the Board in which Bobby Brouillette was assigned to handle any potential issues concerning the employment of Eric Mancuso, Jr. following his promotion to Utilities Master Maintenance Supervisor. SWBNO General Superintendent Robert Turner was named to handle any issues in the event Mr. Brouillette was unavailable.

NEW FACTS PROVIDED

Eric Mancuso, Sr. is now eligible for the promotion to permanent Utility Senior Services Administrator, a.k.a. Chief of Facility Maintenance over the Facility Maintenance

Department. Additionally, M. Ron Spooner is now the interim General Superintendent over SWBNO.

PROPOSED DISQUALIFICATION PLAN

The updated disqualification plan proposes that you, as Interim SWBNO General Superintendent, will handle all issues concerning the employment of Eric Mancuso, Jr. In the event you are unavailable, another available senior supervisor/manager will handle any issues involving Eric Mancuso, Jr.

LAW

La. R.S. 42:1112B(1): No public servant shall participate in a transaction involving the governmental entity in which, to his actual knowledge, any member of his immediate family has a substantial economic interest.

La. R.S. 42:1112C allows a disqualification plan to be developed in accordance with rules adopted by the Board to remove a public servant from participating in transactions that would otherwise present violations of Section 1112 of the Code.

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the proposed updated disqualification plan meets the requirements of Chapter 14 of the Title 52 of the Louisiana Administrative Code - Rules of the Board of Ethics.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Act, and conflict of interest provisions in the gaming laws. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

David M. Bordelon
For the Board